

# The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

April, 2015

## APRIL CALENDAR

Sat	Apr 11	7 am	Field Trip to Greenhorns
Wed	Apr 15	6 pm	Board Meeting: Burnetts'
Sat	Apr 25	7 am	Owens Lake Bird Festival
Sat	May 3	all day <b>BIRDATHON</b>	
"	"	6 pm	Compilation at Pizza Factory

## FIELD TRIP

### Spring in the Greenhorns

Tim Ludwick, lifetime, expert birder will lead this trip on April 11th. Tim may be leaving the area and has agreed to take us to one of his favorite local birding areas before he goes. Don't miss this opportunity!

Join us on Saturday, April 11. Meet at the Inyokern 76 station site at 7 am. Bring a picnic just in case. We will likely eat lunch at the Greenhorn Grill in Alta Sierra, but may instead be far afield looking for black-chinned sparrows Tim has recently heard singing in the area.

Bring a jacket and layered clothing, of course.

Call Tim at 724-689-3189 to sign up and for further information.

## OWENS LAKE BIRD FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 25

There is a reception, social and movie the evening of Friday, the 24th as well, but we assume Ridgecrest people will be interested in going only for Saturday events. Here's the Saturday schedule:

7:00am- Meet for field trips at Stratham Hall, 138 Jackson Street (Continental breakfast provided)

8:00am-11:30am- Morning field trips

12:00pm-2:00pm- lunch, speakers, and festival dedication, Stratham Hall, 138 Jackson Street

Mike Prather (Friends of the Inyo) 'The Magic and Wonder of Owens Lake'

Andrea Jones (Audubon-CA) 'Owens Lake Important Bird Area'

Jeff Nordin (LADWP) 'Owens Lake Master Project'

Dave Herbst (Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory) 'The Owens Lake Food Web and Why Is That Lake Red Sometimes?'

2:30pm-5:30pm- Afternoon field trips

5:30pm-7:30pm- Closing Reception

The Owens Lake Project: Photographs by Robin Black: Interagency Visitor Center, junction Hwys 395 and 136.

Here is some information on signing up:

We are accepting advanced registrations now through the Eventbrite site which can be accessed by clicking on the registration link on our website. We have a limited number of spaces available, so we don't expect to have any day of registrations for the event. The online registration includes sign ups for the morning and afternoon tours, which we are assigning on a first come first serve basis.

Once the general registration information is entered, the program goes to a screen that asks for other details like which tours a participant wants and dietary restrictions, etc. The registration fee covers both tours, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and two receptions. All tours will meet at Stratham Hall and participants can check in there on Saturday morning or on Friday evening at the opening reception at the Lone Pine Film History Museum. You can find more details on our website at:

<http://friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival>.

## BIRDATHON

It's here! Almost. Our other "April field trip" is our annual fundraiser, the BIRDATHON, on May 3rd. It's time to put together teams, get pledges, and get ready to go chasing around toting up species.

Proceeds pay for bird books for Junior Audubon participants, prizes for classroom games, materials such as bird houses to paint and materials to build bird feeders, bird seed to attract birds for the children to watch, and owl pellets to dissect. Some years we also need to buy replacement binoculars. This year, Inyokern School received a grant for those, so they were only needed for Faller.

Anyway, Sign Up! Call Lee Sutton for further information at 760-375-1981.



**Valley Sightings – March 2015**

Please report unusual sightings to Susan Steele at 377-5220 (home) or 939-1722 (work), or by email at [steele7@verizon.net](mailto:steele7@verizon.net).

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was at the old sewage ponds Mar 7 (AS, TG).

LOS for **Snow Goose** was from the old sewage ponds Mar 10 (SLS).

LOS for **Ross’s Goose** was at the old sewage ponds Mar 7 (AS, TG).

The **Common Goldeneye** continued at the ponds throughout the month (SLS).

A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at the ponds Mar 24 (SLS).

Our wintering **White-faced Ibis** continued at the ponds throughout the month (SLS).

LOS for **Red-shouldered Hawk** was from the ponds Mar 16 (SLS).

FOS for **Black-bellied Plover** was from the ponds Mar 15 (AS).

FOS for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was from the ponds Mar 24 (TL).

FOS for **Bonaparte’s Gull** was from the ponds Mar 24 (SLS).

The **White-winged Dove** at the golf course continued calling for a mate unsuccessfully throughout the month (SLS).

A **Long-eared Owl** was at the cemetery Mar 5 (SLS).

FOS for **Rufous Hummingbird** was from SE Ridgecrest Mar 22 (L&SSu).

LOS for **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was from the golf course Mar 10 (SLS).

The nesting **Loggerhead Shrikes** SW of Inyokern successfully fledged young on Mar 9 (LK).

The **Red-breasted Nuthatch** at the college Mar 14 was probably a continuing bird from this winter (TL).

Two **Varied Thrush** continued at the college through Mar 14 (TL).

The nesting **Le Conte’s Thrashers** SW of Inyokern successfully fledged young on Mar 27 (LK).

A flock of 120 **Cedar Waxwings** was in SW Ridgecrest Mar 24, with smaller flocks reappearing daily until the pyracantha berries were gone on Mar 27. (ENG)

A **Wrentit** was in Grapevine Canyon Mar 8 (BB).

FOS for **Brewer’s Sparrow** was from SW of Inyokern Mar 15 (LK).

FOS for **Hooded Oriole** was from N of Inyokern Mar 22 (LB).

FOS for **Bullock’s Oriole** was from Ridgecrest Mar 11 (SE).

**Pine Siskins** were reported from the Inyokern School Mar 17 (BBu), N of Inyokern Mar 8 (BB), in Grapevine Canyon Mar 8 (BB) and in Ridgecrest throughout the month (BB) and SW of Inyokern throughout the month (LK).

**Lawrence’s Goldfinches** are being widely reported in the valley (TM, L&SSu, BB, SLS, LK), and even in Sand Canyon on Mar 20 (BBu), No Name Canyon Mar 8 (SLS), and Short Canyon Mar 15 (AS).

Thanks to the following observers: *Bob Barnes, Brenda Burnett, Shelley Ellis, Ellene and Noel Gravelle, Trish Gussler, Louise Knecht, Tim Ludwick, Alison Sheehy, Lee and Shirley Sutton*

**KERNCREST AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDATHON Pledge/Contribution**

1. Birder’s (or Team’s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Choose Your Per Species Pledge:  
\_\_\_25 cents \_\_\_50 cents \_\_\_1 dollar \_\_\_Other amount

OR: Choose a Lump Sum Payment: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How can we contact you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to Kerncrest Audubon Society, P.O. Box 984, Ridgecrest, CA 93556.

## BIRDATHON

The 26th annual Kerncrest Audubon Society BIRDATHON will be held Saturday, May 3rd, 2015. We need you to form a team – even if it's only a team of one -- and sign up sponsors to contribute in support of the Kern River Preserve and our education programs. If you'd like to join, be, or form, a team, phone Lee Sutton at 760-375-1981. Teams can meet at any time or place they like, but it's best to let Lee know where you plan to go, so that he can provide a "clearing house" to ensure maximum coverage of the area to maximize the number of species seen. This is also the weekend of the attempt to have Kern County again recorded as the nation's "Birdiest Inland County," so all the species we see will be entered there, as well.

We'll bird all day (and all night, starting at sundown on the 2nd, if you want to get owls) then meet at 6 pm at The Pizza Factory to compare and consolidate lists, and to celebrate!

Proceeds are split between the Kern River Preserve and our own education programs. This past year's education funds were spent entirely on expenses for the Faller and Inyokern Elementary School Junior Audubon Clubs. We can't think of a better way to ensure these children retain their excitement about birds!

So Sign up for a Birdathon Team, and sign up friends and acquaintances too. Collect pledges from friends wishing to sponsor by number of species seen, or contributions from those making lump sum donations, and bring them to the Birdathon. (Use the pledge sheet on the opposite page.) E-mail Lee at [2roadrunner@verizon.net](mailto:2roadrunner@verizon.net) or call 760-375-1981 for extra pledge sheets, to sign up, or for information.

If you can't participate, MAKE A CONTRIBUTION and mail it to Kerncrest Audubon Society, PO Box 984, Ridgecrest CA 93556. If you wish to contribute by species, please note the pledge by species and include your telephone number, so someone can call you after the event and let you know how many species were sighted.